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Attorneys, firm chip in to help bail out Legal Aid

By Stephenie Steitzer

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COVINGTON - The struggling Northern Kentucky Legal Aid Society, which provides legal services to the poor, has received a boost from attorneys at a leading Tristate firm.

Legal Aid will lose about \$50,000 in federal funding for the eight-county area it serves.

Statewide, the agency has had to close four offices and reduce staff at others, including the Covington office.

To help make up part of the loss, 31 attorneys from the law firm Greenbaum Doll and McDonald in Covington and Cincinnati donated \$3,400, and the firm contributed \$3,000.

"Participation of our attorneys, and the firm, is based upon the strong belief that the obligation for providing competent legal representation to disadvantaged members of our community is the responsibility, and the privilege, of the Bar," said John West, a partner at Greenbaum Doll and McDonald.

Mr. West is chairing a fund-raising drive that is seeking contributions for Legal Aid from law firms and attorneys across Northern Kentucky.

Federal money for programs like Legal Aid is frozen and state revenue is down by more than 5 percent for most programs.

In Northern Kentucky, revenue from the Greater Cincinnati United Way and Community Chest, which contribute to Legal Aid, has declined by 8 percent.